

Councillor Chris Blakeley
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The Managing Director
Barratt House
Cartwright Way
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21 June, 2009

Dear Sir

Allow me to introduce myself. I am one of the three Councillors who represent the Ward of Moreton West and Saughall Massie in the Metropolitan Borough of Wirral.

I write to you in the hope that you will intervene in an issue that has been ongoing in Moreton for the last couple of years, hopefully to bring a long-term solution to the problem.

Barratt Homes carried out a development in Moreton some years ago, which included the erection of flats/maisonettes in Brunfield Close and Amberley Avenue.

To provide parking facilities for these properties, Barratt's constructed car parks, and I understand as part of the sale of the properties, and included in the deeds, each property was allocated a parking space in a car park. However I understand that Barratt Homes still hold 'Title Absolute' to the car park

Over the years, one of these car parks has fallen into total disrepair, with the surface breaking up, and in 2007 the rubble from the car park was being used by unruly, local youths as ammunition to throw at peoples windows. (see enclosed photographs)

In both 2007 and 2008 I had been in contact with Wirral Council, and at that time Mr Barry Hoos, from Barratt Homes, (based in Ellesmere Port at that time) to try to broker a solution, that would see the car park resurfaced and adopted by the Council. Sadly the Council will not adopt car parks so the problem remains. There was of course also complications from the many title holders to the car park.

In order to act in a responsible manner, Mr Hoos arranged to have the damaged car park fenced off, to provide some security, whilst a solution to the problem could be identified. Sadly, here we are 20 months on and the fencing remains enclosing this eyesore whilst the grassed area, which is also Barratt's responsibility remains unkempt adding to the unsightliness of the area.

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My last contact with Mr Hoos was in August 2008 and I understand he was trying to unravel the individual title holders, to look if they would agree to the construction of a turning head, which Wirral Council would then adopt.

Unfortunately when the development Mr Hoos was working on was completed I lost touch with him.

On the 5th January this year I contacted a Mr Danny Daly at your Manchester office. I appraised him of the whole scenario on the telephone and also emailed him the details along with photographs. Although I have a 'read receipt' from him for the email I have had no acknowledgement from him. I sent him a further email on the 26th January, sadly again without any acknowledgement or response from him.

As I said earlier this issue has been ongoing for two years, with the car park fenced off for 20 months and I am sure you will agree that a solution needs to be found to remove this blot on what is a pleasant residential development.

I accept that on the face of it, as title holders, the householders could be, and perhaps are jointly responsible for the upkeep of this area, however I would hope that Barratt Homes could intervene, and as an act of goodwill, either repair and reinstate the area as a car park, or talk to Wirral Borough Council about a solution that would satisfy the Council and lead to adoption of the area.

If you do wish to discuss this with a Council Officer the person who has been dealing with it throughout, is our Area Streetscene Manager, Mr Chris Jones. He can be contacted on: 0151 606 2439, email: chrisjones1@wirral.gov.uk or by letter to: Cheshire Lines Building, Canning Street, Birkenhead, Wirral CH41 1ND

Myself, local residents and the wider Moreton community sincerely hope you can help with this matter.

I look forward to your response.

With my best wishes

Yours sincerely

Councillor Chris Blakeley
Moreton West and Saughall Massie Ward

End

Cc: Chris Jones. WBC